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Report of the Disarmament Commission for 2010

General Assembly

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Supplement No. 42

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I. Introduction

1. At its sixty-fourth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 64/65, entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission", which reads as follows:

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Disarmament Commission,[1]

Recalling its resolutions 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, 47/54 G of 8 April 1993, 48/77 A of 16 December 1993, 49/77 A of 15 December 1994, 50/72 D of 12 December 1995, 51/47 B of 10 December 1996, 52/40 B of 9 December 1997, 53/79 A of 4 December 1998, 54/56 A of 1 December 1999, 55/35 C of 20 November 2000, 56/26 A of 29 November 2001, 57/95 of 22 November 2002, 58/67 of 8 December 2003, 59/105 of 3 December 2004, 60/91 of 8 December 2005, 61/98 of 6 December 2006, 62/54 of 5 December 2007 and 63/83 of 2 December 2008,

Considering the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in the promotion of the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Disarmament Commission;[1]

2. *Reaffirms* the validity of its decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998, concerning the efficient functioning of the Disarmament Commission;

3. *Recalls* its resolution 61/98, by which it adopted additional measures for improving the effectiveness of the Commission's methods of work;

4. *Reaffirms* the mandate of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues;

5. *Also reaffirms* the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament;

6. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[2] and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982, and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items on its agenda, taking into account the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission";[3]

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/64/42).

[2] Resolution S-10/2.

[3] A/CN.10/137.

7. *Recommends* that the Disarmament Commission continue the consideration of the following items at its substantive session of 2010:

(a) Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons;

(b) Elements of a draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade;

(c) Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons. This item will be taken up upon the conclusion of the preparation of the elements of a draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade, preferably by 2010 and in any case no later than 2011;

8. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2010, namely from 29 March to 16 April, and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament,[4] together with all the official records of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the necessary resources and services, including verbatim records, to that end;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

II. Organization and work of the 2010 substantive session

2. The Disarmament Commission held its organizational session for 2010 at United Nations Headquarters at its 302nd plenary meeting, on 15 March 2010 (see A/CN.10/PV.302). At that meeting, the Commission considered questions relating to the organization of work and substantive agenda items for its 2010 substantive session in accordance with the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission" (A/CN.10/137) and in the light of General Assembly resolution 64/65. The Commission took up the question of the election of its officers, taking into account the principle of rotation of the position of chair among the geographic regions. The Commission considered the provisional agenda for the 2010 substantive session.

3. At its 302nd meeting, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda of its substantive session contained in document A/CN.10/L.63, which reads as follows:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Adoption of the agenda.

[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/64/27).

3. Organization of work.

4. Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

5. Elements of a draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade.

6. Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons (this item will be taken up upon the conclusion of the elements of a draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade, preferably by 2010 and in any case no later than 2011).

7. Report of the Disarmament Commission to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session.

8. Other business.

4. At the same meeting, the Commission took note of its general programme of work for the session (A/CN.10/2010/CRP.1), in which four meetings were allocated to a general exchange of views.

5. The Commission met at United Nations Headquarters from 29 March to 16 April 2010. In the course of its session, the Commission held six plenary meetings (see A/CN.10/PV.303-308), chaired by Jean-Francis Régis Zinsou (Benin). Christa Giles, Political Affairs Officer of the Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, served as the Acting Secretary of the Commission, and Ioan Tudor, Senior Political Affairs Officer of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, represented the substantive secretariat.

6. During the 2010 session, the Bureau of the Commission was constituted as follows:

Chair: Jean-Francis Régis Zinsou (Benin)

Vice-Chairs: representatives of Argentina, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sudan, Spain and Uruguay

Rapporteur: Lachezara S. Stoeva (Bulgaria)

7. Paolo Cuculi of Italy continued to serve as the Chair of Working Group I, on item 4, and Johann Paschalis of South Africa as the Chair of Working Group II, on item 5.

8. On 29 and 30 March, the Disarmament Commission held a general exchange of views on all agenda items (see A/CN.10/PV.303-306). The representatives of the following countries made statements during the general exchange of views: Algeria, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile (on behalf of the Rio Group), China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, India, Indonesia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Non-Aligned Movement), Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria (on behalf of the Group of African States), Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar (on behalf of Arab States), Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain (on behalf of the European Union), Sudan, Switzerland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

9. At the first meeting (303rd plenary), on 29 March, the Commission heard the statement of the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Sergio Duarte.

10. In accordance with the decision taken at its 2009 substantive session, the Commission entrusted Working Group I with the mandate of dealing with agenda item 4, "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons". Working Group I was chaired by Paolo Cuculi (Italy) and held 10 meetings from 31 March to 14 April.

11. The Commission entrusted Working Group II with the mandate of dealing with agenda item 5, "Elements of a draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade". Working Group II was chaired by Johann Paschalis (South Africa) and held nine meetings from 31 March to 14 April.

12. In accordance with the past practice of the Disarmament Commission, some non-governmental organizations attended the plenary meetings.

III. Documentation

A. Documents submitted by the Secretary-General

13. Pursuant to paragraph 9 of resolution 64/65, the Secretary-General transmitted to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament, together with all the official records of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters.

B. Other documents, including documents submitted by Member States

14. In the course of the Commission's work, the documents listed below, dealing with substantive questions, were submitted:

Working paper submitted by the Non-Aligned Movement (A/CN.10/2010/WG.I/WP.1)

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

15. At its 308th plenary meeting, on 16 April, the Disarmament Commission adopted by consensus the reports of its subsidiary bodies and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein. The Commission agreed to submit the texts of those reports, reproduced below, to the General Assembly.

16. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted, as a whole, its report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session.

17. The report of Working Group I reads as follows:

Report of Working Group I on agenda item 4

1. At its 302nd meeting, on 15 March 2010, the Disarmament Commission adopted its agenda for the substantive session (A/CN.10/L.63) and decided to

allocate to Working Group I agenda item 4, entitled "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons".

2. The Working Group met under the chairmanship of Paolo Cuculi (Italy) and held 10 meetings between 31 March and 14 April 2010. Sergei Cherniavsky of the Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, served as the Secretary of the Working Group. Curtis Raynold and Junko Hirakawa of the Office for Disarmament Affairs served as advisers to the Working Group.

3. The Working Group held extensive though not exhaustive discussions, with an incremental approach, on issues proposed by the Chairman or raised by delegations, deemed relevant to item 4 of the Disarmament Commission agenda for the 2010 substantive session.

4. In the course of the deliberations of the Working Group on substantive questions, together with oral proposals made by delegations, the Non-Aligned Movement submitted working paper A/CN.10/2010/WG.I/WP.1.

5. At its 10th meeting, on 14 April 2010, the Working Group considered and adopted by consensus its report on agenda item 4.

18. The report of Working Group II reads as follows:

Report of Working Group II on agenda item 5

1. At its 302nd meeting, on 15 March 2010, the Disarmament Commission adopted its agenda for the 2010 substantive session (A/CN.10/L.63) and decided to allocate to Working Group II agenda item 5, entitled "Elements of a draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade".

2. The Working Group, under the chairmanship of Johann Paschalis (South Africa), held nine meetings between 31 March and 14 April. Christa Giles of the Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, served as Secretary of the Working Group and Ioan Tudor of the Office for Disarmament Affairs served as adviser to the Working Group.

3. At its 1st meeting, on 31 March, the Working Group continued its reading of the Chairman's non-paper (A/CN.10/2009/WG.II/CRP.1/Rev.2), which it had begun at the substantive session of the Disarmament Commission in 2009.

4. At its 2nd meeting, on 1 April, the Working Group completed its reading of the Chairman's non-paper. The Chairman indicated that he would be preparing three non-papers consisting of a compilation of delegations' proposals on each section of the Chairman's non-paper, to be read alongside it. The Working Group agreed to read the three non-papers, devoting two meetings to each one.

5. From 31 March to 12 April, the Working Group completed its reading of the three non-papers. During this period written and oral proposals were made by delegations. The Group decided to continue its consideration of the Chairman's non-paper (A/CN.10/2009/WG.II/CRP.1/Rev.2), along with the

proposals made by delegations, at the next session of the Disarmament Commission, in 2011.

6. At its 9th meeting, on 14 April, the Working Group considered and adopted by consensus its report on the agenda item entitled "Elements of a draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade".

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